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March 1, 1999

Sharpe James, Mayor
City of Newark
200 City Hall
Newark, NJ 07102

RE: Amilkar Velez-Lopez, Esq.

Dear Mayor:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Amilkar Velez-Lopez who is interested in becoming a judge in the municipality of Newark. I support his candidacy without any reservation.

I first met Mr. Velez while we both were law students at Seton Hall more than fifteen (15) years ago. Throughout the years, we have kept in touch both socially and business-wise.

Amilkar is a true leader of the Hispanic community. Whenever there is a problem of equal justice or a deprivation of civil rights, or due process, Amilkar is always there to take the initiative or to offer his unconditional support. Practically, all Hispanic in the metropolitan Newark region know Amilkar.

I also have had the opportunity to work with Amilkar professionally. He is bright, does his research and is well prepare to give combat on behalf of his client. He looks at both side of a case and reaches an objective ruling. In my opinion, a judge must have this skill. He must evaluate the credibility of the evidence presented and therefrom reach an objective ruling. Mr. Velez has this quality.

Finally, Mr. Velez is a mature, well-respected, sensitive and responsible person who will enhance the quality of justice in the municipality of Newark.

Thank you!

Respectfully

Hiram Lopez, Esq.

HL:rc

cc: Honorable Alison Brown Jones
Amilkar Velez-Lopez, Esq.